

THE
DESires

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE

Kingdom of Scotland, that both
Houles of Parliament may sit in Freedom,
for settling of Religion, according to the Co-
venant, that King Charles the second,
upon just satisfaction given may be
admitted to the Government of
these Kingdomes.

Together with their Protestation against their
proceedings to the contrary.



LONDON,

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THE DESIRES OF THE COM- missioners of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, &c.

N the yeare 1642. and afterwards in the year, 1643. When the Popish, Prelaticall, and Malignant party did grow ptevalent in this Kingdom, the honourable Houles of Parliament did communicate severall Declarations and Papers to the Kingdom of *Scotland*, thereby to informe their iudgements of the state of the difference here, and to gain their assistance, and invite their Forces to come into this Kingdom. In which Declarations, and other Papers, they affirme and declare. "That the Army of the Houses of Parliament was raised for Declaration
 "maintenance of the true Religion, the Kings Person, Honour and and ac-
 "Estate, priviledges of Parliament, Rights and Liberties of Subjects, count to
 "sects; And for the prevention of the alteration of Religion. That all the
 "their Enemies design was, to corrupt and alter Religion through- world.
 "out the whole Island; And that they begun with *Scotland*, know-
 "ing well, that the same fate attended both Kingdoms, that they
 "have only inverted the maner of their proceeding, conceiving it
 "an easier way to destroy them, if they may first preuale over the *August*
 "Parliament and Kingdom of *England*, that whensoever Religion
 "is subverted or changed in the one Kingdom, it will easily be ac-
 "complished in the other, Religion being the band and foundati-
 "on of the happinesse of both; That what corruptions take root in
 "England, will quickly spread their venome and infection to their
 "neighbour Church of *Scotland*. They declare the true state of the
 "quarrell to be Religion; In reformation whereof they are so for-
 "ward and zealous, as there is nothing expressed in *Scotlands* for-
 "mer or latter Declarations, which they have not seriously en-
 "deoured to effect. They earnestly intreat the Generall Assembly,
 "to further and expedite the Assistance, desired by both Houses,
 "from the Kingdom of *Scotland*, upon this ground and motive; *That*

"That thereby they shall do great service to God, and great honour
 "may redound to themselves in becomming the instruments of a
 "glorious Reformation, not only throughout this Island, but from
 "thence possibly to be spread to other Churches oppressed under
 "the Antichristian bondage, and tyranny of the popish and prelati-
 "call faction. They commend the prudence and faithfulness of
 "the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in propounding
 Declarat. Suprem. "those things which may conduce to a more close and firm union
 1642. in "of the two Churches and Nations of England and Scotland, in
 answer to "preserving and maintaining the truth and purity of the reformed
 Declarat. "Religion, not only against popery, but all Superstitious Sects
 "and Innovations whatsoever: And declare, that the Houses of
 "Parliament have ever made the Reformation of Church Go-
 "vernment and Discipline, their chiefest aime, though they have
 "been frequen'tly interrupted, and powerfully opposed in the pro-
 "secution and accomplishment of it: And however they continue
 still in the storm and const. & yet they take the peace, liberty, and
 preservation which God hath afforded Scotland, as a pledge of the
 like mercy intended to them in his good time, hoping that God
 will perfect their designs and indeavours of a full Reformation in
 all things pertaining to Religion. And profess their earnest desires
 for unity of Religion in all substantiall parts of doctrine, worship,
 and discipline; that both Kingdoms might be more strictly united,
 and injoy the advantages of his Majesties more easie, safe, and com-
 fortable Government, the people a more free communion in all ho-
 ly exercises and duties of worship. And that there might be a more
 constant security of Religion, against the bloody practises of Papists
 and deceitfull errors of Sectaries, They Remonstrate: "That it is
 "far from their purpose or desire, to let loose the golden reins of
 "Discipline and Government of the Church, to leave private per-
 "sons, or particular Congregations, to take up what form of divine
 "service they please, but doe hold it requisite, that there should be
 "throughout the whole Realm, a conformity to that Order which
 "the Lawes injoy s, according to the word of God. They protest
 in the presence of the All-seeing Deity, "that the services which they

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"they have been desirous to perform to their Sovereign Lord
 "and King, and to this Church and State, in providing for the
 "publick peace and prosperity of his Maiestie and all his Realms,
 "to have been, and still to be, the only end of all their Councils
 "& Endeavours; wherin they have resolved to continue freed, and
 "inlarged from all private aimes, personall respects or passions
 "whatsoever. They oft mention their Protestation, taken by every
 Member of both Houses, promising in the presence of Almighty
 God, to defend his Maiestie, and disclaim the having any purpose
 to offer the least violence to his person, which hath, and ever shall
 be dear unto them. They declare, "that they expect the help and
 "assistance of *Scotland*, in defence of the cause, which if the Popish
 "partie prevaile, must needs either involve them in the alteration
 "of Religion, which will be made here; or ingage them in a war a-
 "gainst this Kingdome, to defend their own Religion and Liberty. Declarat.
 And then professe before the everliving God, the safety of Re-
 ligion, Laws, and Liberties in this, and all other his Maiesties do-
 miniones, to be the chiefe end of all their Councils and Resoluti-
 ons, without any intention or desire, to hurt or injure his Maiestie and Pro-
 testation to all the world.
 either in his Person, or in his iust power, That they rest assured both
 God and man will abhor and abominate that monstrous and iniuri-
 ous charge laid upon the Representative bodie of this Kingdom, of Declarat.
 designing the ruin, not only of his Maiesties person, but of Monar-
 chy itself; and appeal to all the world, whether worse words then
 these can be given them. Nouem. 1642.

These Declarations and solemn Engagements, were communicated to the Kingdom of *Scotland*, before they did joyn in war with the Houses of Parliament: And also both Kingdoms entered into a solemn League and Covenant, for Reformation and defence of Religion: For uniformity in one Confession of Faith, form of Church Government, Directory for worship and Catechizing, for extirpation of Popery, Prelacie, Superstition, Heresie, Schisme, profannes and whatsoever shall be found contrary to sound Doctrine, and the power of Godlines: For preservation of the Rights and privileges of Parliament, and liberties of the Subject: For the honour and happiness

happinesse of the King and his posterity; and the peace and safety of these Kingdoms.

Declarat. of the House of Commons
17. April. 1646. In the year 1646. After the power and strength of the Enemie was broken, the House of Commons did upon the 17 of April publish a Declaration (which they likewise caused to be set up and affix'd in every parish Church) wherein they vindicate themselves from severall misconstructions, and mis-representations of their proceedings: As that they should have any intentions or desire, to make use of the great successe God hath given them, contrary to their former professions, or to exceed or swerve from their first aimes and principles in the undertaking this war: and to recede from the solemn League and Covenant, and Treaties betwixt the Kingdoms, or to prolong these uncomfortable troubles, and bleeding distractions, in order to alter the fundamentall constitution and frame of this Kingdom, and to leave all Government in the Church loose and unsettled, and themselves to exercise the same arbitrary power over the persons and Estates of the Subjectes, which the present Parliament had thought fit to abolish, by taking away the Star Chamber, High Commission, and other arbitrary Courts, and the exorbitant power of the Council Table. And further they declare, " That their true and reall intentions are, and their endeavours shall be, to settle Religion in the purity thereof according to the Covenant; and to maintain the antient and fundamental constitution and Government of this Kingdom, by King, Lords, and Commons.

In November 1647. when a Petition was presented to the House of Commons, stiling them the supreme Authority of the Nation, together with a printed paper annexed, Intituled the Agreement of the People, for a firme and present peace, upon grounds of common right, (which agreement, as we have found upon perusal of both) is the same for substance, with the agreement lately published) the House of Commons did declare, that the matters contained in those papers, were destructive to the being of Parliament, and to the fundamentall Government of the Kingdome; And appointed a letter to be written to the Generall, to examine the proceeding

proceeding of that busynesse in the Army, and returne an account thereof to the House. And when another petition directed to the Supreame Authority of England, the Commons in Parliament assembled, was presented the 23. of the same Moneth, they voted that Petition, a seditious and contemptuous, avowing, and prosecuting of the former petition and paper annexed, Stiled an Agreement of the people, formerly adjudged to be disctructive to the being of Parliaments and fundamentall government of the Kingdom, and another letter was appoynted to be sent to the Generall, to take notice of his proceedings in the execution of a mutinous person (who was an abetter of that agreement) at the Randisyouze neere Ware, and to give him thankes forit, and desire him to prosecute the examinations of that busynesse, to the bottome, and to bring such guilty persons as he shall thinke fit, to condigne and exemplary punishment, all which declarations, protestations, Oathes, Covenants, and solemn Ingagements, notwithstanding we find to our great gife, wonder and astonishment, that contrary to the dissent and protestation of the Kingdome of Scotland, his Majestie is removed out of this life, by a violent death; That Orders are published in print, Entituled *Acts of Parliament*, prohibiting the proclaiming of the Prince of Wales, King of those Kingdomes, that the Commons which now sit at *Westminster*, (after many Members of that House, have been imprisoned, secluded by force or necessitated to withdraw, because they cannot act as in a free Parliament) have voted away the Kingly office, and the House of Lords, and claime the authority of a Parliament, and under colour thereof, the Power of repealing all Oathes of Allegiance or obedience whatsoever, even without exception of the Solemn League and Covenant, from which the conscience cannot be absolved by all the powers on earth. We see likewise strong endevours used, and resolutions taken, to maintaine a Liceasious liberty, and ungodly toleration, in matters of Religion, As appeareth by a paper lately published, commonly called an Agreement of the people, against which upon the 26th of January last, wee did present a testimonie, from the Commissioners of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland approved of by the States of Parliament.

ment of that Kingdome. If the Honourable Houses of the Parliament of England, who made the Declaration and Engagement aforesaid, haue beene permitted to sit and act with freedome, we know there woud have beeene no such proceedings as we have already seene, nor cause to feare such dangerous evills and strange alteratiōns as are now carried on by will and power. We may confidently say, they would have beene more mindfull of their many Declarations, and the Solemn League and Covenant; and more ready to hearken to the advice of their brethren of Scotland, and however, no regard hath beene had by those who now rule, to what we haue formerly said, and so we haue small hopes, that any great notice shall be taken of what we shall further say; Yet in pursuance of the instructions we haue received from the Parliament of Scotland, we hold it our dutie to desire, that there may be no toleration of Idolatry, Popery, Prelacy, Heresie, Schisme or prophannes, that ther be no change of the fundamentall constitution and Government of this Kingdome, by King, Lords and Commons, that there may be nothing done which may wrong King Charles the Second, in his succession, as righteous heire of the Crowne of these Kingdomes: But that by the free Councell of both Houses of Parliament, reformation of, and uniformity in Religion may be settled, according to the Covenant, and particularly, that Presbyteriall Government, the confession of Faith, Directory for worship, and Catechisme may be established, that the just Right and Title of King Charles the Second, to the Crowne of these Kingdomes, may be acknowledged and upon just satisfaction given to both Kingdomes, he may be received and admitted to the exercise of his Government. And if notwithstanding all our carnest desires and endeavours to the contrary, the Commons now sitting at Westminster, shall proceed otherwise in all or any of the particulars aforesaid; we doe hereby in the name of the Parliament and Kingdome of Scotland dissent from the same, and solemnly protest that they may be free before God and Man of all the guiltiessē, evils, confusions, miseries and calamities that may follow thereupon to these distracted Kingdomes.

24. Feb. 1648.

Lothian. I. Chiefly.
William Glendonyng.